

Charlie Smith

From: Office of Commissioner Fay
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:22 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU
Attachments: RE. Docket #20240032-SU-corrected subject line; Request for ; Docket #20240032-SU; Centralized Waste-Water Charlotte County FL; FOR CENTRALIZED SEWER; Palm Island - Request for Wastewater Service; Request for Centralized / Wastewater Service; For Centralized Sewer on LGI

Please place attached emails in Docket No. [20240032](#)

Charlie Smith

From: makboland@twc.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:49 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; jandjadler@aol.com
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU-corrected subject line

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April 23, 2024

Dear Clerk of Commission,

I have been a homeowner on Palm Island (250 N. Gulf Blvd, 33946) since 1980. My name is John W. Adler; my wife is JoAnn S. Adler. I am homesteaded to that lot and 271 N Gulf Blvd. I am addressing the issue (as I did in the past) to the idea of Environmental Utilities, LLC (EU) putting in a sewage system on Palm Island. My email address is jandjadler@aol.com (copied); my daughter (Kathleen Adler Boland) is sending this from her email for my convenience.

I could appeal to you from an emotional standpoint that this is our family home for generations, which we will have to sell if you do this as it would be unsustainable for our family especially after having the expense of hurricane repairs that were not covered by insurance.

With that said, my son in law, (married to my daughter for 29 years) owns industrial engineering companies that manage the southeast (including Kentucky/Indiana/ Tennessee/Georgia/Alabama/Florida) that sell a multitude of pneumatics and pumps including those to wastewater plants. From an environmental/engineering aspect he thinks it is unnecessary for a multitude of reasons:

- i. Being at sea level will not only create a danger of a break and deterioration to a line thus creating more expense to repair/replace for the home owner but also create a larger scale of environmental issues than a broken septic would. In some cities there are insurance policies for protection but we have seen how those have played out over Hurricane Ian.
- ii. Septic systems are also environmentally friendly when properly maintained. Septic systems require far less infrastructure than city sewers. They use less energy than municipal treatment plants and very rarely rely on chemicals to remove wastewater pollutants. Septic systems are systems designed to conserve the local water supplies in an environment like Palm Island and Don Pedro Island. Moreover, septic systems create a groundwater effect that reinvigorates the soil and vegetation water supply.

There is a contingent of families that still have current descendants actively on the island that perpetuate the need for balance of nature and limitations for expansion on the island. My family saw some of the first children there who spent every summer there, swam in canals, found red snakes in their little blow-up boat, saw the beached whale, saw the overpopulation and made friends. These 50 plus year children now have their children (my grandchildren/great nieces and nephews) visiting and to take on the hard work so they too can appreciate the good life and extend the vision. We created a community where we support local businesses and contractors (despite a little more expense) because it is a community of trust. On June 12, 2024 I will turn 88. My daughters and granddaughters are entrusted with trying to restore and maintain my property such that hopefully

it will be something where my great-grand children will be able to explore and maintain the traditions. It is a small community of originals.

If you can provide reasoning as to why the sewage installation is necessary (even though it was denied the last time) can you please provide a reply with your rationale?

In conclusion, my septic tank has been there for well over 40 years next to a canal and has survived hurricanes and floods with no issue. As the old adage goes “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it”. We kindly request that you deny EU’s application for wastewater service.

Sincerely,
John W. Adler and JoAnn S. Adler

Also BCC:

Kathleen Adler Boland (daughter of John and JoAnn Adler; spends significant time on Palm Island working on the house)

Michael A. Boland (my son in law; President/Owner Eagle Investment Partners; DBA Republic Pneumatics/Eagle Flow Solutions. He is cited in this letter who works with wastewater treatment plants)

Lisa Steinberg Lawlor (homeowners on Palm Island, niece of John and JoAnn Adler/cousin to Kathleen and Kerry)

John Lawlor (homeowner on Palm Island, “nephew in law”/husband of Lisa Steinberg Lawlor)

Charlie Smith

From: makboland@twc.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:40 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; jandjadler@aol.com
Subject: Request for
Importance: High

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April 23, 2024

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John Lawlor (homeowner on Palm Island, “nephew in law”/husband of Lisa Steinberg Lawlor)

Charlie Smith

From: Malone, Rose <Rosemary.Malone2@evernorth.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:30 PM
To: Records Clerk; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Docket #20240032-SU

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Hello,

My name is Rose Malone. I am a property owner on Knight Island. I am formally requesting that the PSC **deny EU's application for wastewater service** for these reasons.

- **Environmental concerns:** No water quality testing has been done in our area to prove a need for sewer. This project brings the potential for destruction of habitat and interference with endangered species such as the gopher tortoise.
- **Potential of sewer spill in the Intracoastal:** The risk of a central sewer leak with a subaqueous crossing is greater than the risk of one or more septic systems developing leaks.
- **Traffic Congestion:** The combination of post-storm rebuilds, new home construction, and tourist traffic during season has made wait lines at the ferry both unpredictable and outrageous. This will only add to the current ferry issues the islanders deal with on a daily basis.
- **New easement giveaway:** Most utility easements are placed in the road right-of-way. EU has claimed ownership of a utility easement that will go from the sewer equipment, located near the house to the connection in the road without compensating the homeowner. Our easements are already being taken away by new property owners planting plants and extending driveways past their property line causing no room for walkers to get out of the road. This will only add to the unsafe conditions for walkers or runners.

Thank you,

ROSE MALONE
Email : rosemalone@earthlink.net

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Charlie Smith

From: Linda Soderquist <linist@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3:39 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; governorrn.desantis@eog.myflorida.com; ltgovernorjeanette.nunez@eog.myflorida.com
Subject: Centralized Waste-Water Charlotte County FL

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April 22, 2024

I am writing to comment on the proposed centralized waste-water treatment for the barrier islands in Charlotte County Florida.

I am not currently a homeowner, but did live full time on Little Gasparilla Island from 1992 until 2020. During most of that time I was a sea turtle primary permit holder (Imperiled species sea turtle permit TP-132 with FWC) During that time my permit included data collection, training and supervising volunteers, collecting data on sea turtle strandings, and leading educational opportunities. I was on the beach every single day from May 1st through October 31st starting in 1997 until 2019.

During my beach time as the permit holder, I was able to observe extreme tide changes and the beach during and after storms. Many times, I observed septic tanks compromised by the wind and tide, pouring raw effluent onto the sandy beach. The beachfront properties on Little Gasparilla are literally in the sea turtle nesting zone and most every septic tank has been affected to some extent multiple times. These properties have no recourse but to cover the exposed tanks and drain fields with beach sand (usually before the county could even come out to inspect the breach) and wait for the next high-water event. They have no place on their lot to relocate septic tanks. For this reason, centralized waste-water is a must for the barrier islands. Water quality is at stake.

I lived on the bay side of Little Gasparilla Island. In walking down the path to the beach every morning, I observed many similar situations with failing septic tanks and drain fields on the interior of the island. Some older properties do not even have drain fields, but merely a cesspool covered with plywood and sand. The flood tides and storm surges certainly negatively impact these properties over and over again. That polluted water drains off right back into the bay and gulf.

I am an environmentalist. I know water quality has been compromised by continuing to allow aging septic tanks on barrier islands, creekfront properties, and bayfront properties. I have been a member of the CHVWQMN (Charlotte Harbor Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network associated with FDEP)) for over 20 years and have seen the data that supports declining water quality in many of the estuaries and creek areas. Much of this decline has to be a result of aging septic tanks on the barrier islands as well as nearby mainland waterfront and creekfront properties.

I believe there is a need NOW for centralized waste-water. The barrier islands are a place to start, but other areas need to be addressed as well. We cannot wait. I have many friends still on the island and have heard their comments. Many more are now in favor of centralized waste-water treatment. They have concerns and questions about the cost and feel they need assurances for the reliability of the systems proposed. Once these concerns are addressed, they will support a centralized waste-water system because they, too, see it as necessary to protect the beaches and island life they love.

Linda Soderquist

Watercolor Artist
Florida Master Naturalist

Linda's Island Art LLC
www.Lindaislandart.com

P.O.Box 958
Englewood FL 34295

(941) 270 7994

Charlie Smith

From: Carole Songey <songeyislandlife@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 12:04 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: FOR CENTRALIZED SEWER

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Commissioner Fay,

Being a conscious citizen desiring a healthy environment in which to live and pass on to my family growing up in the future, IT IS IMPERATIVE to do what we as responsible citizens of this earth can do to have a clean and healthy environment.

Unfortunately there are individuals out there more worried about themselves than the environment or others, or perhaps even their own families growing up, who want to stop the proposal for removing wastewater from ALL barrier islands.

Will it cost all us money? Yes, of course. BUT what will be the cost in the future to our health and the health of all others living in a polluted land surrounded by polluted waters dues to leaking and broken septic systems. WHEN will they learn?

I have lived on Little Gasparilla island since December 1992. I have seen first hand the pollution of our once pristine waters. I have seen broken septic pipes dumping raw sewage on our land and into the waters surrounding the island. I have seen a rise in "Red Tide" with sewage being a major contributor to algae bloom. More dead fish, turtles, dolphins, manatees, to float up onto our beaches, the toxins released in the air that both people and animals have exposure to and other health problems or death in some instances from all forms of damage that septic systems release and contribute to.

For any truly concerned individual the passage for a Centralized Wastewater system needs to be approved.

A Healthy and Beautiful Environment needs your support in passing this request. Please keep me advised on your recommendations.

Carole Songey

Charlie Smith

From: Chad Durrance <chad@durranceappraisals.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:46 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Palm Island - Request for Wastewater Service

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Commisioner Fay-

I have been a property owner on Palm Island for over 20 years, first having lived in Palm Island resort and I am currently building a home at 461 North Gulf Boulevard. I would very respectfully request that you vote in favor of centralized wastewater service for the entirety of the island for a number of reasons.

- 1) I am in the process of building a home and in probably about 12 months will be spending a little over \$20,000 for a septic tank and drainfield system that most government agencies and scientific bodies would tell you is not as beneficial to the environment as a centralized waste water system. So not only is it better financially for my particular situation, but as with everybody else it is overall better for the water quality surrounding the island. I realize there are some folks that have recently built a house and therefore recently spent money to install a new septic and drain field and they are against centralized sewer simply because of the cost. I understand their position and am I sympathetic, but I will let them write their own letter to the council and plead their case.
- 2) A raised drainfield and septic system takes up about a third or more of my lot area outside of my home footprint. With centralized sewer I could be using that area for a lot more productive uses by freeing up the space.

As with most communities, persons on the island see issues through different sets of lenses and from different perspectives. I respect everyone's opinion and position that writes to this commission but wanted to let you know there are long time property and homeowners on the island that would like to see a centralized wastewater system. Thank you for your consideration.

Chad Durrance, MAI | Cert Gen RZ987

Durrance & Associates
300 S. Hyde Park Avenue, Suite 201
Tampa, Florida 33606
(D) 813.258.8464 | (C) 813.477.3388

Charlie Smith

From: jack murray <jkmurrayiii@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:43 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: Request for Centralized / Wastewater Service

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Hello-

I own Lot 28 on Palm Island and would appreciate it if you would support the extension of wastewater services to the Island. I am in the process of building a home there and based on the amount of money I am investing there, as well as the amount of taxes I pay there, I feel this is an appropriate request. These services will greatly enhance the community in a number of ways. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Jack Murray

Jack Murray III
Partner, Murray – Bertron, LLC

1700 South MacDill Ave., Suite 220
Tampa, FL 33629

813-223-2424 (Main)
813-229-3702 (Fax)

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Charlie Smith

From: Karress Slattery <karress.slattery@shorepointhealth.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Fay
Subject: For Centralized Sewer on LGI

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Good afternoon commissioners,

I have lived on Little Gasparilla Island full time now for almost 5 years. I would like to be very clear that I am FOR sewer systems on our island. There is a huge need for them. One example, No septic trucks have come out to the island since Hurricane Ian hit back in September 2022. There is a list with dozens upon dozens of people waiting to get their septic pumped. Two on that list are my neighbors. They have been needing and waiting for their tanks to be pumped for almost two years. Our own septic tanks is getting close now and we can't even get on the list because it is so backed up. This is just ONE example.

I don't allow my children to go play in the rain, or play in the water on a high tide due to constant septic tank flooding and overflow. After Idalia there were several septic tanks that floated up entirely and drained all over our island.

The constant fish kill, change in our seagrasses, the newly formed jelly fish that are surrounding our island and waters, all from Septic in my opinion. The research proves it all.

Please consider servicing our beautiful island who has worked so hard to recover from Ian. Septic is that last thing that needs to go.

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